

April 1792

GOOD PETER'S DESCRIPTION OF DEED DEALS

(122) discusses John Harper's Purchase, Clinton found out, kindled Council Fire at German Flats, told Oneidas they had lost so much of their lands, told Harper would cheat,

(123) " He then told us he would negotiate with us for that land, and that he would do us justice. We replied that we were not willing to part with it, now that our whole nation were collected together. And truly we had all agreed, before we left our town, not to sell that land. But the governor persisted to press the matter upon us; and told us it would be to our advantage. Still we utterly refused it. The governor then produced a bag of money, and told some of our nation to take up a handful; but they could not consent to do this. It was too heavy. He then himself grasped a few handfuls and gave to me and another (then perhaps not to more than three or four persons) and said, all this shall be yours, on condition that you follow my advice. He then showed a large pile of goods, for the same purpose.

Our brother, Governor of New York, then told us he meant by his proposed purchase to put a final stop to any future purchases of our lands; but if we did not consent to his present proposed purchase, we might never thereafter tell him of our being cheated out of any of our lands; for he would not hear our complaints.

Brother, one thing more I wish to mention, which you may think was a transgression on our part; after several times mildly declining, and at length utterly refusing to accede to the Governor's proposals. We made this proposal to him . . . That instead of selling, we would lease out a tier of townships, on the line of property, to any poor people of his state, who had no lands; and that we would do this on reasonable terms. To this the Governor and his Commissioner made a reply . . . that it was a dishonorable proposal; that he and his Commissioners were not in the condition of tenants, and that they should be ashamed to return home with such an account of the negotiation." (Preceeds to describe Livingston Purchase)

Two years after Harper Conference, John Livingston with S. Dean held conferences with the Seneca. Cal. Lewis and Capt. David present, came to Oneida to discuss leases.

(123A) "Accordingly Mr. Livingston - a short time, made his appearance in our town, - entered the house of my friend, Schenandoah, and verily, by his appearance and company, we supposed they came from the Great Council of that State, and would not deceive us. - Upon his making propositions to us respecting our lands, one and another replied, that it would not be for our advantage to lease a small piece to one and a small piece to another, or to listen to everyone that should say to us - cut me off a slice from your loaf - it may be better for us that one Great Man should undertake to manage the whole.

Then Livingston fully opened his design to us and

GOOD PETER'S DESCRIPTION OF DEED DEALS

made propositions to us of leasing our whole territory. We deliberated long upon the matter. It was new to us. We did not know what was right in such a case. This one thing we knew - that we loved our land; and thought we were sole proprietors and might dispose of little or much, as we pleased. (Good Peter chief negotiator)

- (124) Long discussion followed over boundaries, Livingston persistent and insistent.
 (125) agree on boundaries of reservation
 (126) Thursday evening April 5, 1792 Good Peter continues,

"After this transaction the voice of the birds from every quarter cried out, "You have lost your country, You have lost your country, You have lost your country! You have acted unwisely and done wrong." And what increased the alarm was - that the birds who made this cry, were White Birds.

On this occasion, some of our brothers, the white people, seemed to pity us, while others laughed us to scorn. The transaction soon came to the ears of our Brother, the Governor of New Yrok, and he spoke and told us our land was sunk - that we and our country were gone, as if swept away by a deluge. However, Brother (he said) I will kindle a council fire in the Spring, and you shall hear aurther my sentiments on the subject. He added - I am able to recover your lost country and to raise it out of the water. - This voice of the Governor seemed to quiet our fears - that he could restore to us our lost country -it gave joy to all who could feel for our situation.

Accordingly in the spring following, a council fire was kindled at Fort Stanwick; to which we were all invited, both Sachems and warriors. At which council were present the French Ambassador and some other of the French King's subjects who encamped at a little distance from the Governor. These, we supposed, only came in a friendly visit to hear what should pass at the Council.

After a little visiting had passed between us, from one encampment to another, - I heard that the Governor made this inquiry - What do you think of your present situation? - It is my mind to recover your lost territory, and take management of it into my own hands, I think that I can raise it from its present drowned condition and if you do not agree to this, I shall do nothing but let it go. Upon this declaration of the Governor's I saw that difficulties and embarrassments were going to spring up. We had expected from the Governor's love to us, his intention was to recover our lost and drowned country, and restore it to us - saying - "Here, Brothers, take your lost country and re-possess it -"

Notes that no agreement had been consummated with Livingston since there was no exchange of money.

Good Peter's Description of Deed Deals

(126) The tribe was split on the Governor's intention; one group thought he was going to return land, the other thought he was going to take it -- Good Peter stays neutral - Canadians suggested leasing land - was given job of negotiating with Governor.

(127) Negotiators not able to carry any points, yielded to Governor's terms. description of terms

(127A) Continuation of terms dictated by Governor

(128) "After this, the Governor of New York said to us; - You have now leased to me all your territory, exclusive of the reservation, as long as the grass shall grow and rivers run. He did not say, "I buy your country - Nor did we say, "We sell it to you."

The Governor then said - In twenty-ont years we will again convene together on this subject. and now we will agree to give you Six hundred dollars a year for the lease of your country -- not six hundred pounds, but six hundred dollars."

(129) complains that amount is a fixed amount, will not increase, too small to support a growing tribe

T. Pickering to Henry Knox.

Phila. May 2^d 1792.

977
1792
Small of letter
Sir.

Yesterday Good Peter handed me the enclosed speech made to the Oneidas by Congress & the Board of War in Sept^r 1781.

From Mr. Kirkland's account, they have not received the promised "rewards", or as to other "consequences" of their attachment to us, to them they have not been "good", unless it is good for them to lose almost all their lands for a trifle. I have marked in the second page the passage on which they make their claim.

Good Peter, & his friend Skamondook (who is also here) have particular claims not only on the gratitude but the justice of the United States, for it seems they were sent, at an early period in the late ~~war~~ revolution, by the Indian Commissioner for the Northern Department, to Niagara. There they were seized & imprisoned many months, & when liberated, not suffered to return to their own country till the war was over. I asked Mr. Kirkland what compensation he thought they would expect. He says that a yoke of oxen or a plough, or a little cash, say to the amount of six dollars in the whole, oxen, plough & cash, for each would be satisfactory.

I am sir respectfully yours

T. P.

Gen^l Knox

Sec. of War

(From the draft or copy in Pickering's hand. Mass. Hist. Soc., Pickering Papers. 62: 31)

April 1792 Good Peter Narrative of Several transactions
respecting Indian lands.

Brother & Friend. The other day, you may remember I mentioned to you that several things lay with weight upon my mind, which I would take another opportunity to disclose.

You know we have met with a great loss, in our young brother, who could talk your language. We have another [meaning Jacob Reed] who can talk your language, but we can never fix his attention. We have however another brother, a Tuscorora who has some knowledge of your tongue; and we brought with us our father the minister to assist him.

Brother (), who was expressly appointed by the president to confer with us upon the concious of our nation, we now request your particular attention, while we mention somethings which lie heavy upon our minds. We shall now speak with freedom, for this liberty was given us by the Great Chief of the UStates. And he expressly mentioned, in his address to us; that one design of our being

invited here, to the great council, was to have every difficulty and uneasiness removed from our minds.

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Bro. Con. () of the () of the 13 US. to confer with us on our present - you continue to hear listen to my words. From the beginning of your troubles, in the late revolution, to the time you publicly ^{declared} -----
yourself a free and independent people, I, my nation, were a constant spectator - not only a constant spectator - but our minds united with yours in that final declaration; as all hopes of a reconciliation were then passed. - The frequent & repeated declarations of the King, that the Amer. with all who joined them, would be reduced to wretchedness, had no effect upon the minds of my nation. And on the other hand, his promises of a rich reward, on condition of our adhering to his councils, did not excite covetous desires in us; but the love of peace, and the love of our land which gave us birth, supported our resolution.

Bro. I did not then expect that should we be reduced to our present situation. We then thought we should be the sole proprietors of our own land; and that our disposal of it should be optional with us, in case of ---^a--- successful issue.

Bro. It seems to us that we are not really freemen; nor have had the real disposal of our property

(3)

122

property. If we understand what is meant, by ^{a person's} being free and independent, as to his own property, he may either lend, or sell his property, or any portion of it, as he pleases.

Bro. We had determined never to sell any more of our land; but to reserve it for the benefit of our children and grand children. This we had determined upon, on a conviction that our forefathers had trifled away our land.

We had said, amongst ourselves, that our childⁿ or child^{ns} childn by some transgression ^{might} ----~~^~~ for-
feit this native right to our land - that it should be their fault - not ours - if it was disposed of.

Bro. ----- While peace was negotiating,
and our nation were quartered at Schenectady, colonel
it seems
John Harper ^ had agreed for a piece of our land, near
Ononquaga - 4 miles on one side of the river, and 2
on the other, back from each ---- shore of the river,
the mouth of
from ^ Unadilla downward to the line of Pennsylvania.
Soon after our nation returned to their dwelling
place, Oneida, this agreement of colonel Harper
came to the knowledge of the governor of N. York.
Upon which he immediately arose, and kindled a
Council Fire at the German Flats, to which he
called the whole nation. When we arrived there,
he told us we had lost so much of our land
as

(4)

as colonel Harper had proposed to purchase. He told
us that that man would cheat us; and that in the
it
end ^ would be all loss, and no gain. He then told us
that he would negotiate with us for that land; and
that he would do us justice. We replied, that we
were not willing to part with it, now that our
whole nation were collected together. And truly

we had all agreed, before we left our town, not to sell that land. But the gov.^r -----persisted to press the matter upon us; and told us it would be for our advantage. Still we utterly refused it. The Gov.^r then produced a heap of money, & told some of our nation to take up a handful: but they could not consent to do this: it was too heavy. He then ~~himself~~_^ grasped a few handfuls, and gave to one and another, ----- (tho' perhaps not to more than three or four persons) and said, all this shall be yours, on condition that you ~~will~~ follow my advice. He then showed a large pile of goods, for the same purpose.

Our Brother, Gov. of NYork, then told us, he meant by his proposed purchase, ----- to put a final stop to any future purchases of our lands: but if we did not consent to his present proposed purchase, ---^{we}_^ might never there- after tell him of our being cheated out of any of our lands; for he would not hear our complaints.

Bros. One thing more I wish to mention, which you may think was a transgression on our part; after several times mildly declining, and at length utterly refusing to accede to the Gov.^{rs} proposals - we made this proposal to him - That instead of selling, we would lease out a tier of townships, on the line of property, to any poor people of his state, who had no lands; and that we would do this on reasonable terms. To this the Gov.^r with his Commissioners, soon made a reply - That it was a dishonourable proposal; that he and his Com.^{rs} were not ---- in the condition of tenants; and that they should be ashamed to return home with such an account ----- of the negotiation.

Bro. Let this suffice for the foregoing subject.

I wish^{ask} your attention to another.

About two years after this conference with the Gov.^r a Mr. Livingston of New York passed thro' our town, on his return from the Senaka country: but did not call upon us. He proceeded on, and lodged with Mr. Dean; from whence we

soon heard that he (Livingston) had had a conference with Senaka Nation, on the subject of their lands.

Col. Louis, and captain David of our nation, we soon heard, were present at that conference and we were informed that this Mr. Livingston would

(6)

[123 A]

would soon return, to confer with us on the same subject, and desired that we would revolve it in our minds.

Accordingly Mr. Livingston, in a short time, made his appearance in our town, & entered the house of my friend Shanandoah, and verily, by his appearance and company, we supposed they came from the Great Council of that state, and would not deceive us. - Upon his making propositions to us, respecting our lands, one and another replied, That it would not be for our advantage to lease a small piece to one and a small piece to another, or to listen to every one that should say to us - Cut me off a slice from your loaf - it may be better for us that one Great Man should undertake to manage the whole.

- 17 -

Then Livingston^{fully}_^ opened his design to us, and made propositions to us of leasing our whole territory. We deliberated long upon the matter. It was new to us. We did not know what was right in such a case. This one thing we know - that we loved our land; and thought we were the sole proprietors, & might dispose of little or much, as we pleased.

I myself, at that time, was a principal negotiator with Livingston: and I was fully determined that Justice sh.^d be done to my nation, as far as my influence extended; and that we would be the judges of what part of our lands we should give up, as our necessities might require. - We thought
that

(7)

124

that we should determine the quantity of land that we should give up and as to the price of it, we would refer it to Livingston and his company to determine, according to what was customary and right. But
----- even this claim of ours could not gain admission.

At length, he made us fully acquainted that his intention was to lease the whole of our territory. This gave us much anxiety and great pain. We laboured in council for two days and nearly one whole night. Towards the close of the business, it was urged, that the season was far advanced, the road would soon be bad, the rivers would break up, and they could not return. This was passed as a powerful argument to bring the business to a conclusion. Widely different is this from the conditions of us Indians; who may long urge with the white people more forcible arguments - in vain!

I then mentioned a certain boundary to be agreed on between us: but this could not be accomplished by any means by Livingston this party. I then enlarged the bounds; ---- even a third time. At length by Livingston this party - it was said, ^ that our reservations should be of equal extent with the () of our ----- domestic animals. Upon this I was greatly distressed: and had I not been left unsupported, -----the event would not have been such as it was.

Finally, after much disputing, and on our part
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in a mild, tho' earnest manner, it was agreed, that our reservation should begin at the southwest corner of the township of land we had given to our brothers the Stock-bridge Indians: From thence run westwardly to the end of the Pines called Cagh-negh-tot-ha: from thence to the Oneida Lake: and then ^{northerly} a little ^{distance} ----- from our settlements, round to the place of beginning. We reserved the Lake and Fishing place for ourselves. This was his last proposal. When I saw that I could ^{keep my} hold -- no longer, I let go. But I thought, at the time, that I did not understand the term for which the lease was to endure. As I understood him, it was to be as long as the water sh.^d run & the grass grow. It is true he mentioned 999 years: - I then thought with myself, --- if I did not ask the question - whose property it should be when Jesus sh.^d come to finish his work in this world - if the grass should not grow nor the water run until that time. However, this I must add, that he agreed to give us what I then thought was a great sum.

Thursday Evening April 5 1792

Bro.

At Our last conference I closed the subject of the Great Lease to Livingston. I mentioned only the leading facts on that subject. To enter into a particular detail of the transaction, would take a long time: tho' I could do it, were it necessary. After this transaction, the voice of the birds from every quarter, cried out you have lost your country - you have lost your country - you've lost your country!

You have acted unwisely - and done wrong. And what
increased the alarm was - that the birds who made this cry, were White Birds.

On this occasion, some of our brothers the white people learned to pity us - while others laughed us to scorn. The transaction soon came to the ears of ^{our Bro.} the Gov.^r of New York; and he spoke & told us our land was sunk - that we and our country were gone, as if swept away by a deluge. However Brothers (said he) I will kindle a council fire in the Spring, and you shall hear further my sentiments on the subject.

He added - I am able to recover your lost country, & to raise it out of the waters. - This voice of the Governor seemed to quiet our fears - that he could restore to us our lost country: - it gave joy to all who could feel for our situation.

Accordingly, in the Spring following a Council Fire was kindled at Fort Stanwix: to which we were
all

(10)

125A

all invited, both Sachems & Warriors. At which council were present the French ambassador, and some other of the French Kings Subjects, who encamped at a little distance from the Governor. These, we supposed, only came on a friendly visit, to hear what should pass at this council.

After a little visiting had passed between us, I heard that from one encampment to another - the Governor made this enquiry - What do you think of your present situation? - It is my mind to recover your lost territory, and take the management of it into my own hands. I think that I can raise it from its present drowned condition: and

if you do not agree to this - I shall do nothing - but
let it go. - Upon this declaration of the Governor's,
I saw that difficulties and embarrassments were
going to spring up. We had ^{expected from ---} ~~-----~~ [^] the Governor's
love to us, his intention was to recover our lost
and drowned country, and restore it to us - saying
- "Here, Brothers, take your lost country, and
repossess it."

Oh! Brothers, were I to relate the particulars
of these past transactions - they would be endless.
Therefore let it suffice for me only to mention the
principal facts. We did not apprehend there was
anything in the way of the Governor's ^{again} ~~^~~ putting
us in possession of our lost country; as we had
not received any consideration upon our agreement
with

(11)

125

with Livingston; which was the usual practice,
to confirm an agreement. Had we received a
valuable consideration, --- the governor might
have been embarrassed.

Our minds, on this occasion, were much agitated, and drawn various ways. Some said it was the Governor's intention solely to restore to us the possession of our country, said to be lost: others said his ultimate design was to get fast hold of it himself. Seeing difficulties arising, I had determined, for my own part, not to be a principal actor; but to let some other one of my nation take the lead. At length one who then belonged to our nation, but formerly from Canada, and who was acquainted with the conduct of the French towards the Canadian-Indians - told us it might be good for us that we should lease our lands to the governor, instead of selling them. - Upon this we appointed him with the one who the other day was put under the ground, in this city, to be the immediate negociators with the Governor, ----- in respect to our lands; as they understood each others language, and the one from Canada was acquainted with the method^{and} (~~~~~) of leasing lands & receiving rent; and thereby the business would be expedited. - These were to be the

between
medium of communication the parties. They un-
doubtedly talked much with the governorⁱⁿ his -----
-----room, and^{from day to day} brought us various accounts
of

912)

of their progress: and sure enough, in the end, the
Governor took fasthold of our land. It seemed to
us, upon the conclusion of the negociation, that the
persons whom we had appointed, were not able
to carry any point, with respect to our interests:
and -----that they yielded entirely to the
terms prescribed by the Governor.

My Bros. & Friend: I see that it is laborious to write: there-
fore I will avoid as much as possible the reciting of many
particulars. It might suffice to say, that the Gov.^r
carried all his points. After much disputing upon
the subject, our agents made this report, with respect
to the^{bounds of the} reservation we now possess: That it should begin
near
-K- the Southwest corner of our grant to our brothers
the Stockbridge Indians, and run westwardly, south
of the noted place called, The Deep Spring. They
could obtain no more on that line. From thence,

as we understood by our agents, the line of^{the} reservation was to extend to the west end of the Oneida Lake; and then round the north side of that Lake, south a reservation of half a mile square in every distance of six miles, for fishing places) to the Head of the Lake, at the place called The Royal Block House. We also supposed, by the report of our Agents, that we were to --- have the exclusive right to the fishing places in all the streams which empty into the Lake. as it was urged on our part, that they ---- were a great means of subsistence to us Indians. They often ----- ^{yielded} A us both food and clothing: and our brothers the white people found no difficulty in getting their subsistence out of the ground. Besides, we

(13)

127

we had been their sole proprietors from the beginning, by the gift of the Great Spirit.

The Governor then, in reply to our agents, asked them whether it might not be right for him to throw in a fish hook, into one stream and another as he should pass by ; and what he should do in case large fish should appear about his hook - whether he might ^{not} throw his spear into them?

They answered - By all means - he might have this privilege: but not make a business of it.

It appears by this that we erred: by giving that liberty we opened the door: It had been better if we had forbid the casting in the hook; and retained the exculsive right to ourselves: for by opening this door, we find they use every stream and fishing place equally with ourselves..

Another circumstance I would now mention relative to the Fish-Creek, so called. The Governor agreed, that half a mile should be reserved on each side of the river, as a barrier to the river, that the fish might not be driven ^{away} ; and on these strips of land, no trees were to be cut by white people.

Another thing I want to mention with respect to the eastern boundary of the reservation. - Our agents first agreed to set off at a place called Canada Creek. Then to run southerly to the north-west corner of a grant of a small tract of land which we made to Purache, a Frenchman, near
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the Creek called Hanegoteg. This grant was originally to have extended two miles on the line of Property so called, and one mile in breadth: but since, it seems, that (~~~~) laid out two miles square. Be that as it may It was agreed the that line of reservation should strike his north-run west corner: and then along his western line to the grant made to Mr. James Dean.

[Wednesday]
April 11, 1792 Good Peter proceeded:

From thence (Mr. James Dean's grant) it was to run southerly --- (along Mr. Dean's western line) to his southwest corner; and from thence a southerly -----course till it should intersect ^{the} ~~---~~ southern boundary line. of our reservation. Here arose a dispute, whether this point of intersection would be ^{miles} four or eight miles from the point in the line of property from which we set out. - We supposed, by the report of our agent (Col. Louis) that this corner was to be at a place called Cghstaghlako, instead of the Head of Unadilla and there to run a due west line. la A So much for the boundary of the --Reservation.

After the boundaries were agreed on, as our agents could ~~obtain~~ maintain nothing but what the Governor pleased - the Governor proposed that we should have a strip four miles wide on the southside of our reservation, which we might lease out at our own discretion: but the settlers should be considered as his subjects: and the produce of their labours (or ~~(---)~~) should go to the Oneidas.

After this, the Governor of New York said to us;-
to me
you have now leased ^{to me} all your territory, exclusive of the reservation,

(15)

128

as long as the grass shall grow & rivers run. He did not say "I buy your country" - Nor did we say - "We sell it to you."

The Gov.^r then said - In twenty one years we will again converse together on this subject. And now we agree to give you Six hundred dollars a year, for the lease of your country - Not Six hundred pounds - but Six hundred dollars.

We Indians are unwise; and our want of wisdom is owing to our want of knowledge of the ways of white people. White people say to us - "This
And
Measure will be for your good." ^ We have always

been accustomed to obey this voice, without enquiring
into it; ----- as we verily
thought our white borthers meant good to us: and
hence we have been misled deceived in respect
to our lands.

(Do tell this to my friend. I am not just now
looking in which my steps may be
-----^λ for a new path, ~~to~~ directed-----; -----
the one I now mention I have long ago ----- discovered
to my satisfaction.)

Let me^{now} ~~λ~~ to the sum stipulated for the
loan of our lands - Six hundred dollars! - Six hundred
dollars, without any increase! - We had always
conceived that upon the leasing of land there was
to be a growing up of an annual increase after
a certain time. This had once before been men-
tioned to us: but when the^{time of the} first annual payment
arrived; behold! it was fixed down to Six hundred
dollars, forever! - This---- alarmed us in looking
forward to our children & grandchildren, who should
come after us. Now see what took place, ----in
consequence

(16)

consequence of this fixed sum, last spring, when
the annual payment was made. Behold,

we had increased in our numbers, and that stipulated sum seemed to be diminished, it scarcely amounted to a dollar to each individual. In a few years more, should we multiply, under the blessing of the Great Being above, - it may be reduced to a half dollar - to a shilling - and even to a penny a piece! - How astonishing the contrast! While we are thus (~~~~~) in our interest, - our brother of New York has every thing springing up ----- in great abundance from the ground we leased to him, whereby the wealth of his people is greatly increased - He is rising up - and I am sinking down!

Now, Brother, it appears to me, that my country, the vast tract of land which I owned, is merely lost for the petty consideration of Six hundred dollars per annum; and my ----- posterity will find this to be the case.

My friend, Here I now come to the last existence of my territory. Suffice it, what I have said. My feelings have been sufficiently expressed. - One other circumstance I want to point out.

Oh! Much advantage might be taken,
could I multiply words, by descending to particulars: But alas! the labours of writing!

Now a circumstance, a little () from
what

(17)

129

what I have said. - The French ambassador,
the () Monstier, was present at the last
treaty held by the Gov. of New York. After staying
a few days, He (the ()) addressed us in the
following words -

"My Children,

I came with a view to make you
a short visit. I have much business at New York.
I must ---- leave you soon: But Mr. Penet
will stay here, and attend to what is going on.
I exhort you, my children, to take heed -----
what you do. Mr. Penet will give me information
of what shall be transacted at this meeting."

Oh! How soon may evil things spring up!, While
good things proceed with difficulty! - -----
At the close of this transaction with the Governor of
New York, it came to our ears; that the Governor
himself had made a present of ten miles

square of our land to Penet! And soon after
our return to our village, a voice again was
heard, but ^{not} ~~from~~ any precise quarter; that it
----- belonged to Penet's Children ^[the Oneidas.] to
make ~~him~~_^ some compensation - if they should
think proper - for his great love to them! -

We do not say, that this voice ----- came
directly from the Governor, or some other person:
however, considering that the former ^[of ten miles square] grant_^ did
not ----- originate from us, - we judged it
proper to make him some present from our-
selves

(18)

129A

selves. We were induced to this by two motives.
The strong affection we have always borne to the
French nation; and the alliance which had
taken place between them & the Americans,
resembling that of two brothers. These two
considerations, it seems, misled us.

Tuesday Evening April 24, 1792:

While we were sitting round our firesides, a voice came
to us (whether directly or indirectly from the Gov.^r of New York

we could not determine, but supposed the latter) which said- it would be wise for us to considerer father Penet, and provide for him a dish. - In our deliberations upon the subject, we had proposed four miles - whether this was four miles square - or four square miles (according to the way of reckoning among white people) we ----- did not then know; as Louis was the interpreter & négociator. Furthermore, we proposed that this four miles should be on the north side of the lake. - No sooner had we made this known to our father Penet, than he thanked us, and said he considered it as only complying with the Governor's (~~~~~) on the subject; and added, that he would sleep upon it, before he made a reply.

On the morrow, we reminded our father Penet of his proposing to dream, the night before, upon the subject of our conversation yesterday. He answered - True, my children, I have dreamed, and thought I was travelling the road which leads thro' the Five Nations; and behold I came to the place where the light broke forth. I considered with myself, - This is a delightful place; and not far removed from the settlements of my children.

"I thought in my dream - Here

Here let me reside, where I can keep my eye continually upon my children, and watch over their interest; as my intention is, to promote their happiness." We then counselled but a little while upon the subject of his dream; and concluded, to remove the four miles from the North Side of the Lake to this place, called Kanaghsoragy, which had so pleased him in his dream.

I will now pass by the various talks upon this subject, which took place among ourselves; and observe, that in the conclusion, we acceded to the purport of his dream. Upon which he replied as follows. - My children, I thank you that you have hearkened to my dream.

Altho' the Earth which you have loaned me as a dish be but small, out of it I shall endeavour to seek my

() . Still you are to consider the right to the earth as remaining in you. It is only loaned to me.

I wished for it in no other view, but to sit down

near you, and revive the friendly treatment which you formerly received from your ancient father. You know that he never purchased, but borrowed your earth from you; and let you share with him in the profits, or fruits, which should grow out of it. Now my children, I will settle here, in this dish, some Germans, it may be some Englishmen, and some of my own nation.

that
I have observed [^] many things which were said, I shall
pass by, as they are not essential to the detail of this
transaction; and only add here some further remarks
by
made [^] our father Penet, which were these - My children,
I only mean to make one trial to promote your real
happiness

(20)

happiness; and in doing this I shall exercise great pa-
tience. When I have filled up the dish with settlers,
I shall wait three years for their rents to be collected
and poured forth upon you. In the meantime, if
individuals should apply for some ----- portion of the
fruits of the earth you have loaned me, I shall not
regard such applications; as my object is the interest
of the whole body. If nothing shall be collected the third
year, I shall wait till the fourth; and if no rents
then come in, I shall wait till the fifth year. And
should there not then be a sufficiency for all to partake,
I shall despair of attaining the object I have in view;
and say to my children - Here! Take back the dish
you gave me! And we will then part in great peace
and friendship. Altho' I failed in this attempt to pro-
mote your interest - I shall still consider you as my
children.

After this declaration was made, we put
our names to the paper which conveyed the dish.

Soon afterwards, the news of this transaction came

to the ear of our brother the Gov.^r of New York. He expressed a hatred of it; and wrote to us, and said in the writing, it was a violation of the covenant we had before entered into with him at Fort Stanwix. He also said, we had taken a ^{serpent} ----- into our bosom, and he was whispering in our ear.

Upon this we thought within ourselves - What shall we these poor ignorant creatures do? - And very soon a division took place in our nation. One party were for adhering strictly to their covenant with the Governor; and proposed that our father should be immediately driven out of our country. But we who were of the other party, were disposed to wait till the voice

(21)

131

voice of some higher power should be heard upon the subject.

In the meantime, our father Penet took boat to go to France, ----- and carried the writing of conveyance with him, to show to the Chief in that country; and soon to return to us, -----with their opinion of what we had done. But behold! It was three

years before he returned. And then he informed us, that the disturbed state of that country prevented their deciding upon it. The few great men who saw it, expressed a high degree of approbation; and said that they must roll up the writing for the present, until their affairs were settled; after which they would fully consider of it. - He also told us, that the disorder in that country prevented his residing there; so he went to the French Islands, where he had resided, ^{since} ~~---^---~~ he left them; but constantly heard of their troubles and divisions. He saw them as though they were present before his eyes. At length the Great Man upon the Island proposed to him, to come over and visit their children the Oneidas, and see if it was true, that they had broken their agreement with him. Upon which Five Frenchmen, one a very rich man, came over with our Father Fenet; and when they had arrived at our village, acquainted us with all these things, and many more; and said they would go and see the dish which we had given him. And no sooner had they reached the place (called Kanaghsorogy) then Col. Hongery, head of the other party, warned him

him off the ground; as likewise did Col. Calbraith, who was returning from his expedition to the Cayuga Reservation, where he had been to drive off the white settlers from it. At the same time he said, if Penet had brought a written permission from the Governor, he would have assisted him.

After Penet's return from Kanaghsoragy to our village, he called a council, and addressed us in substance as follows.

My Children, The affair of Kanaghsoragy is over - I have no expectations of any thing from that quarter. You have a strip of four miles wide on the south side of your reservation, which by treaty you are allowed to lease for 21 years. I will now take the charge of this if you will lease it to me for that term. You may do as you please; I stand in need of nothing: but I pity you my children. I look forward to the good of your grand children; and as this was agreeable to your bargain with the Governor of New-York, it will occasion no evil stories. In the term of 21 years, fields may be cleared & fenced, houses

built, and a town formed; and then all becomes yours, for your profit and ten thousand dollars which I will give you for the loan of it during that time. He twice mentioned the sum of ten thousand dollars. - It appearing a little extraordinary to us, I questioned him about the sum; and he ^{again} ----- mentioned ~~the sum--~~ it twice. And he added, that in five years he would give them 250 dollars, which was nearly half that the Governor was to give them for their whole territory. - He again said, that in

(23)

132

in the present Spring (1792) he would make them a present of three wheel ploughs and a pair of oxen to each, as a free gift, and not as a part of the consideration for the lease.

The next morning we deliberated upon this proposal & all its advantages. It appeared to us that it would be for the benefit of our grandchildren; and even some of us might live to reap the fruits of it. ^[See Vol. 135] We therefore concluded that it would be good for us, condition that his words could be verified, and his promises fulfilled. But we

remembered what our Brother Conmitsanty told us at Newtown Point - That altho' we had been cheated heretofore about our lands, yet we should be cheated no more; because all negotiations about our lands must now be transacted under the eye of the President of the UStates: This we told to our father Penet; and agreed to it on this condition - That it should meet the approbation of the President & be confirmed by him and Penet replied that it was perfectly agreeable to him. For ----General Washington was the greatest man in the world; and if it was not approved by him, both parties should throw their papers into the Fire.

Penet once more observed that on condition they should like his conduct, at the expiration of twenty one years, a new writing should then be given for another term, and so on, at the end of every 21 years; and not one writing which should reach to the end of the world, at the coming of the Lord Jesus.

Penet

Penet further observed, That it was the rich from whom they must expect to see money; & not from the poor. The poor might furnish a little produce; but the people who came with him from the Island would enable them to see money.

He ----- having thus agreed with us -----
 ----- the writing was drawn & we put our names to it. Penet then said he would go down to Schenectady & Albany; & confer with some of his friends of the citizens of the State of New-York. He soon after returned, and told us he had a most pleasant conference with them on the subject, and they expressed their strong approbation, and said Now the Oneidas will receive -----some profit from their lands. He told us that the Minister of Schenectady ----- expressed his ^{high} approbation of it. He Penet also said, that in the opinion of ----- his friends, two things were wanting - the first that the names of the Chiefs and their respective tribes should be specified in the Writing, & the second, that the bargain should be so fixed that it ^{might} -----_λ be

as ~~the~~ durable as this land itself. - He mentioned other proposals which had been talked of between him and his friends in Schenectady, which I could not ----- comprehend. He said that the Rulers of the ancient Church in Schenectady should have the guardianship of the Onondaga interests as ----- involved in this agreement. And from pity to our children, they proposed to educate two of our children in the academy at Schenectady.

We then agreed to these amendments to the first bargain, and a second writing was drawn and executed. This we did, because the whole was to be referred to

(25)

133

to General Washington for his confirmation. This Penet said pleased him, because Genl. Washington was his great friend, and loved him much, & he also ----- was a friend to the General & loved him.

Penet again observed, that instead of three ploughs, he should send them six; & that in case any of the oxen should die a natural death, he would replace them; but if they were killed by bad people, he should not replace them.

Penet also told us, That it was three years
since our agreement with the Gov. of New-
York, & that strip of land had lain idle:
but now, said he, the clods shall be broken
up: which work you do not understand.

-----I have got to the end of this
long path; and I am not conscious of-
having made any deviation from the
line of truth.